

# ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 223

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 23, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman NANCY F. MUNOZ**

**District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)**

**Assemblyman JON M. BRAMNICK**

**District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Urges Biden Administration to prioritize funding for Gateway Program.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/1/2021)

1    **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the Biden Administration to  
2       prioritize funding for the Gateway Program.  
3  
4    **WHEREAS**, The Northeast Corridor (NEC) is the most heavily used  
5       passenger rail line in the United States; and  
6    **WHEREAS**, More than 2,000 intercity and commuter trains, supporting  
7       approximately 800,000 passenger trips, use the corridor to make  
8       daily trips across eight states and Washington D.C.; and  
9    **WHEREAS**, The existing North River Tunnels, which carry the NEC  
10       under the Hudson River, are over 100 years old, were severely  
11       damaged in 2012 by Superstorm Sandy, and are in a serious state of  
12       disrepair; and  
13   **WHEREAS**, The Gateway Program (program) was unveiled on  
14       February 7, 2011 as a planned phased expansion and renovation of  
15       the NEC rail line between Newark, New Jersey and New York City,  
16       New York; and  
17   **WHEREAS**, The program would build new rail bridges in the New  
18       Jersey Meadowlands, new tunnels under Bergen Hill (Hudson  
19       Palisades) and the Hudson River, and finance the construction of a  
20       new terminal annex; and  
21   **WHEREAS**, Since the program’s inception, costs and funding for the  
22       project have caused delays and there has been little movement on  
23       the overall program, which, cannot move forward without federal  
24       support, due to ownership by the National Railroad Passenger  
25       Corporation (Amtrak), federal permitting requirements, and the  
26       regional nature of the project; and  
27   **WHEREAS**, Every year the program is delayed, the cost of labor and  
28       materials rises; and  
29   **WHEREAS**, If the tunnels continue to deteriorate to the point where  
30       they must shut down, the United States economy would suffer a  
31       \$16 billion loss over four years, as noted in a February 2019 report  
32       by the Regional Plan Association (RPA); and  
33   **WHEREAS**, Additionally, the RPA report noted that a shutdown of the  
34       tunnels would cause New Jersey home values to depreciate by \$22  
35       billion; and  
36   **WHEREAS**, Finally, if the tunnels were closed, service between New  
37       Jersey and New York and between Washington, D.C. and Boston  
38       would be halted and the roadways would be gridlocked with  
39       thousands of additional motorists; and  
40   **WHEREAS**, Having traveled frequently on the NEC and having once  
41       noted that the Hudson tunnels are “... the lifeline for the northeast,”  
42       President Biden and his administration are called upon to prioritize  
43       the funding of this integral program; now, therefore,  
44  
45       **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*  
46       *Jersey:*

